



Ash Wednesday at Beagle Bay

Welcome to a humble little newsletter outlining some pastoral projects and directions in our Diocese for 2023. I am excited to be back in the Broome Diocese. This week Amber and I celebrated 30 years of marriage. I daydreamed about returning to this stunning part of the world to celebrate this milestone and now we are living here! In a short period of time I have been struck by two things. The first is the depth of welcome and support. The second is the extraordinary people that live and work and are a part of our Diocesan family. I am super conscious at this time of the impact of the flooding during January and February and the reality that we really are a region and a Diocese cut in two. Please pray for our upcoming Gathering (Tuesday 21st March). May this be a time of praying and dreaming and planning that we might be the Church God wants us to be in this most beautiful part of Creation. (Mark Copland - Pastoral Projects)

LENT 2023

There was a sense of the sacred and the beginning of the journey to Easter as Ash Wednesday was celebrated across the Diocese. Lent calls us into a deeper relationship with God and with each other. I read recently that the latin meaning of the word "Lent" is to lengthen or to slow. There are so many opportunities for us to do this either in our time away from work or as part of community gatherings such as the Stations of the Cross or Scripture reflection groups.

Please reach out to your parish leaders if you are after any prayer resources or ways in which you can gather together in this season of Lent.



Ash Wednesday with Christ the King School Djarindjin Lombadina

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PROJECT COMPASSION

One of the ways in which we undertake the Lenten journey is to reach out to those who are struggling with the basics in life. It is always inspiring to see creative ways in which our community supports the great work of Caritas through project Compassion. A big shout out to the teachers and young people from Ngalangangpum School for their basketball fundraiser in the Warmun community last week!! If you require one of the iconic Project Compassion boxes or have a fundraising idea - or story you would love to share get in touch with our Caritas Director for the Diocese of Broome Aidan Mitchell. Email - caritas@broomedioocese.org



Janet Ryan (Volunteer Coordinator, Vince Rigoli (Financial Administrator and Mark Copland (Pastoral Projects) with that iconic Project Compassion box.



Some agency leaders and community members recently caught up for morning tea and a Gospel Reflection at Notre Dame University. The conversation was rich and Tom Gannon cooks a mean savoury scone. Get in touch if you are after discussion guides.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS SUPPORT VOICE

Faith Leaders from across our nation recently shared an open letter calling on our Federal Parliamentarians to support an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.



Have Box - will travel. For all things Project Compassion get in touch with Aidan Mitchell Caritas Director for our Diocese.

Bishop Charles Gauci, (Diocese of Darwin) Chair of the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples co signed this letter. The Catholic Bishops of Australia endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart in 2021. This action was supported by the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council.



Some members of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish with local representatives Divina D'Anna and Senator Pat Dodson at a recent Voice to Parliament Forum in Broome.

A powerful coalition of national religious and ethno-religious organisations has sent a joint open letter to all federal parliamentarians, calling on politicians to co-operate across political divides in support of the upcoming Voice referendum.

The letter states, "The Voice is an invitation to move towards national healing, unity and reconciliation. It seeks to formalise in our Constitution a way by which First Nations' voices and concerns can be heard, and to establish a means for overcoming the devastating effects of social exclusion.

This is an opportunity to unite Australians around a proposal that seeks to make life better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people." Whatever our disagreements, let us work together to resolve them. The Voice referendum deserves cross-party co-operation. If we work together across political divides, the referendum will succeed, and we will have put Australia on both a moral and practical path to reconciliation."

For a full copy of the statements go to our Diocesan website - www.broomediocese.org

The Fast Life

- Fast from judging others;
 - Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
 - Fast from fear of illness;
 - Feast on the healing power of God.
 - Fast from words that pollute;
 - Feast on speech that purifies.
 - Fast from discontent;
 - Feast on gratitude.
 - Fast from anger;
 - Feast on patience.
 - Fast from pessimism;
 - Feast on hope.
 - Fast from negatives;
 - Feast on encouragement.
 - Fast from bitterness;
 - Feast on forgiveness.
 - Fast from self-concern;
 - Feast on compassion.
 - Fast from suspicion;
 - Feast on truth.
 - Fast from gossip;
 - Feast on purposeful silence.
 - Fast from problems that overwhelm;
 - Feast on prayer that sustains.
 - Fast from anxiety;
 - Feast on faith.
- Author Unknown

(From xavier.edu/jesuitresources)



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It was at the Melbourne Myer Music Bowl on February 24, 1973, when many of us heard a strong and joyful Aboriginal voice for the very first time. Many voices, in fact. The event, part of the 40th International Eucharistic Congress, was titled the Australian Aboriginal Liturgy and it involved a very large number of Aboriginal people, particularly from the Kimberley of Western Australia and the Northern Territory, who had come down to participate in the event. This group numbered more than 150 adults, teenagers and a children's choir.

This liturgy was, for many of us who were present, the first time we had witnessed and experienced Aboriginal people expressing their Catholic faith in ways that were culturally different from our own but very significant to them. The ancient Catholic liturgy took on a new dimension of life and energy as people sang in their own language, mimed the Word of the Gospel and danced.

This first public and national Aboriginal Liturgy was highly significant. It was the first attempt by the Church in Australia to re-shape the ancient Catholic ritual of the Mass, which itself had already changed and adapted in the light of Vatican II in the late 1960s. In this case, the attempt was in the light of the faith experiences by those belonging to an even more ancient culture. Or, more accurately, Aboriginal cultures. It was no easy task.

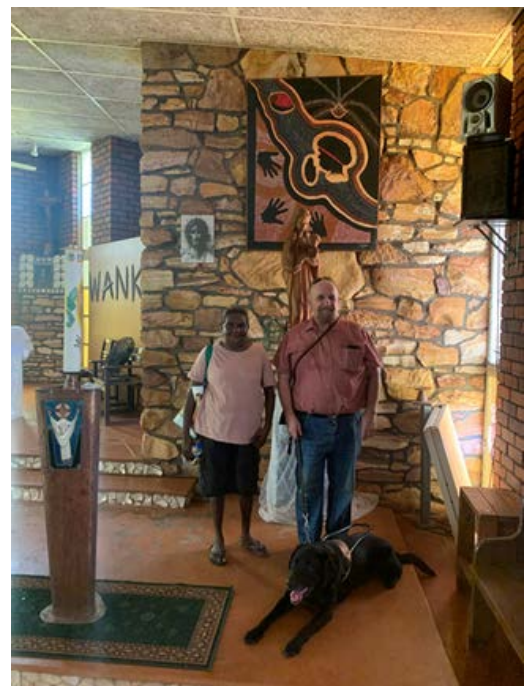
REMEMBERING THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL LITURGY

The liturgy had been long in the making. It owed much to the energy and commitment of many Aboriginal people who had found encouragement in the living and cultural expressions of their Christian faith.

This new liturgical expression sought to acknowledge that Aboriginal people had lived within a context and consciousness of the transcendent for generations.

Religious experience was part of the fabric of their daily lives and the ceremonies they regularly conducted. They knew what it was to have faith in the power and sacramental nature of symbols. They were open and enthusiastic in exploring new ways to express and share their Christian faith.

By long time friend of the Diocese of Broome, Fr Brian McCoy SJ. You can read the full article online at www.eurekastreet.com.au or get in touch for a hard copy.



The Diocese recently hosted Peter Arndt. Peter is the Executive Officer for the Bishop's Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace. Peter is currently working on the Bishops 2023 Social Justice Statement which will focus on justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Peter and his Guide Dog Mack spent some time with Aunty Madeline Jadai in Bidjyanganga.